

APRIL, 1994



Ohio Valley

AMIGA

Users Group





President's PALAVER

George Gibeau

Hmmm, elections are over, the results are in, and in a sweeping majority win for the "throw the rascals out" party, the new slate of officers is the same as the old slate (with the exception of one new person). Once again I take the reigns of the OVAUG helm, attempting to guide the club to bright new horizons, and to boldly go where no club has gone before... (wait a minute, I have been watching too much science fiction).

I would like to take this bit of filler to thank Troy Cooksey for his great job as secretary. A truly thankless job that will now be performed by Jeff Johnson.

**Thank You,
Troy Cooksey**

I am grateful for the opportunity to once again lead the club. In spite of the recent trials and tribulations of Commodore USA, there are those of us that still believe in the machine and what it is capable of. I am sure that no matter what happens to Commodore, the Amiga and its support community are not going to disappear anytime soon.

HamFest '94 will be the last weekend of April (i.e. this weekend), and it is a fun place to go if you want to pick up some good deals on computers (plus it is great to see folks with ham radios talking to other folks about 3 feet away and trying to pinpoint their positions). While the Amiga may not be represented in any great numbers (if at all), it is still a good place to browse the flea markets for those parts that you just gotta have.

I will always be on the lookout for folks to give demonstrations at the monthly meetings, so if you have a demo that you would like to share with the club, please give me enough warning so I can schedule you into the evenings activities. Or just show up at the meeting prepared to do something :-).

George Gibeau





Amiga 1200

Clean, Amiga 1200 for sale in mint shape. Includes:

- 6 MB RAM (2 MB chip - 4 MB fast) via MicroBotics card
- 33 mhz 68882 math coprocessor (25 mhz crystal)
- 85 MB 2-1/2" Seagate harddrive
- AmigaDOS 3.0 with all manuals, disks etc.
- Single floppy drive, cables, mouse, C= VGA adaptor
- Extra heavy duty nylon case for all with AC/battery mini speakers

• \$700 / obo

I am selling to pay off my Toaster system, and don't need three Amigas!

Special! If desired, I can throw in Caligari Broadcast for \$100 additional! (Manual, video tape, dongle, disks, etc)
Ed Hoffmann 513-243-9996 (W) 513-521-3424 (H)

Super Amiga 2000

Amiga 2000 with Rev 6.2 motherboard for sale:

- ECS chipset (1MB Agnus, Super Denise, 2.04 Kickstart ROM)
 - GVP 40 mhz 68030/68882 accelerator
 - *8* MB of 32 bit RAM (60 ns - fast!)
 - SCSI controller
 - 120 MB Quantum SCSI hard drive
 - A2320 Commodore Display Enhancer (VGA-ready)
 - Single floppy drive, mouse, keyboard, cables, etc
 - AmigaDOS 2.0 manual (the nice thick one), disks, etc
- All very clean and in great condition.

• \$1200 / obo

Ed Hoffmann 513-243-9996 (W) 513-521-3424 (H)

Election Results

President:	George Gibeau	16
	Drew Vogel	1
	Paul Wehner	1
Vice President:	Drew Vogel	18
Secretary:	Jeff Johnson	18
Treasurer:	Ed Hoffman	18
Librarian:	Scott Bennet	17
	Edgar the Cat	1
Technical Advisor:	Brick Eksten	18
Newsletter Editor:	Dan Dennedy	17
	Jeff Johnson	1



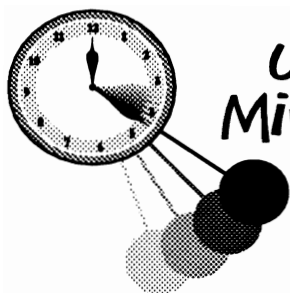
Editor's MESSAGE

Dan R. Kennedy

Ahhh yes. What a good way to make an impression as your recently-elected newsletter editor—fail to meet the deadline! The time to start this project came up and slapped me in the face Monday before last (18th). I didn't then start actual work until Thursday—the day it was supposed to mail. Well, when something slaps me, I tend to just whack it back. I've put a lot of work into this over the weekend. Unfortunately, my birthday was Sunday (don't ask). That made it even more difficult to dedicate time. I really need to put out something nice as these newsletters must go into a portfolio. This a project which I can refine from month-to-month where I can hone my skills, experiment and demonstrate progress. Therefore, I am truly dedicated. I believe that dedication shows via the attention to detail and fresh design which I applied.

I thought very much about the format, and that is basically what you hold here—just a skeleton. I still need to implement some other ideas. Some pages, you see, contain an article heading and no text! Well, those are the headings for regular columns. "The Creative Impulse" column is just about art and creative endeavors on the Amiga. The topics could include how-to's, articles about your projects and creations, or simply in-depth software reviews. My next article for "Creative Impulse" will be about alpha channeling with Art Department and ImageFX. The "AmigaDOS Synergy" column is all about AmigaDOS, utilities, and ARexx. The articles won't be about one command or utility in particular, but about using several of them together possibly using ARexx and AmigaDOS batch files as the glue. My first article will be about public screens, opening dock windows on them, and attaching ARexx and AmigaDOS scripts to them. The "Tech Arena" column gets into the guts of our beloved machine. What a way to kick it off, Jeff. Thanks! So, even though I have articles planned doesn't mean you do not need to write. I want you to be stimulated by the newsletter and feel excited to write yourself. I look forward to your submissions whether they fit the columns or not.





Up To The Minute Report

Minutes of the March 28th, 1994 O.V.A.U.G. Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm by vice-president Drew Vogel. The attendance was about 35 people.

New Members

The following new members have joined OVAUG in March: Rick Amato, Mick Donna, and John Ray. Welcome to OVAUG.

OFFICER REPORTS

-VICE PRESIDENT (Drew Vogel) Drew told us that the Commodore U.S. sales division had filed for bankruptcy, however this was not indicative of the entire corporation's financial situation.

-SECRETARY (Troy Cooksey) As of this meeting we have 128 paid members. Membership dues are \$15 for a single membership and \$20 for a family membership. (If you need to pay dues or wish to join, see me at the meetings or call 661-0908 for more information). If you have something for sale or trade, then please give me a written description of the item along with your name and phone number, or you can send it to the club's post office box. Your ad will appear in three issues of the newsletter or, more or less issues, if you let me know that you need more time or that the item has sold.

-LIBRARIAN (Scott Bennett) The Fred Fish library is currently up to FF950, the new FF BBS CD has just arrived, and there are four new club disks this month. (Note: a variety of books and video tapes are now available for borrowing by club members in good standing. Scott has sign up sheets for those interested).

-TREASURER (George Gibeau) The treasury balance is approximately \$310.

-TECHNICAL ADVISOR (Brick Eksten) Scott Bennett reported for the absent Brick Eksten. He said the big push at the NAB show is for non-linear editors, which were in abundance at the show including one from NewTek which will work in conjunction with the Video Toaster.

-NEWSLETTER (Jeff Johnson) Jeff thanked all of the contributors to last month's issue of the newsletter. Jeff requests that if you have anything; articles, tips, artwork, renderings, etc, then please send them in. Note it does not have to be a full blown article. Anyone published in the newsletter will receive one free Fred Fish copy. Submissions can be made to the club P.O. box, to the club BBS, or to Jeff at the meetings. Also if you would like to see an article on a particular topic then let Jeff know and he will try to find someone to write on it.

-BBS ADVISOR (George Gibeau) George reported that the new hard drive for the BBS is up and running and you should not have any more problems uploading files. We also now have FF disks 600 to 950 on the BBS. The club's BBS phone number is 241-8817.

SIG REPORTS

-BEGINNER'S SIG (Ed Hoffmann) No report. Meetings are held in Room 502 Rieveschl Hall at 6:30 pm prior to the monthly OVAUG meeting.

-GRAPHICS SIG (Bob Leibold) No report, however we later received word that the SIG is being disbanded. We will update you on this when we have more information.

-AREXX SIG (Richard Hertzberg) AREXX discussions are taking place on the BBS. Also note there is an AREXX file section on the BBS where your files will not get erased.

-3D Graphics SIG (Brick Eksten) The group is currently working on a large scale animation project. The SIG takes place at Expert Services on the first Tuesday of every month. Call Brick at 371-9690 for more details.

OLD BUSINESS

-Ballots were submitted for the 1994 OVAUG club officers.

NEW BUSINESS & DISCUSSION

There was no new business this month.

DEMONSTRATIONS

-Dan Dyke gave a demonstration of how to transfer files between an Amiga and a MS-DOS machine. Basically, this is achieved using a piece of software called TwinEx (Twin Express) and a null modem or lap link cable. This eliminates the necessity to transfer using Cross Dos and limited size floppy disks. This is very handy if you have large files.

-Phil Homey and Drew Vogel showed us a cool game called Perihelion. It is a search and destroy type game with a very good animated intro and excellent digitized sound.

-George Gibeau demoed the long awaited CD³², 32 bit game system from Commodore. George showed several really nice software titles and indicated that this was only the tip of the iceberg in what the machine was capable of in terms of graphics and sound. It comes with a coupon for Chaos Engine and one other title. The CD³² runs CDTV titles and has a slot for an MPEG-as-vidboard when it becomes available. We also discovered later that you can hook up an A4000 keyboard and a mouse and can use it as a computer.

-Lee Parker showed us some clips from a music video concert he and Jim Sutter and Fred Williams recorded at the recent Benefit for the Homeless Concert that was held at several bars on the Vine Street strip near the UCcampus. The concert featured a variety of local bands.

QUESTIONS???...Then contact one of your OVAUG officers!



President, George Gibeau
721-1214

Vice-President, Drew Vogel
232-6439

Secretary, Jeff Johnson
651-1199

Treasurer, Ed Hoffman
521-3424

Newsletter Editor, Dan Denny
574-3125

Technical Advisor, Brick Eksten
371-9690

Club Librarian, Scott Bennet
371-2603

BBS Officer, George Gibeau
721-1214

BBS Phone Number (8N1)
241-8817

F.Y.I.

Commodore Canada

FORM-9375---

[From] Steve Vetzal

[BULLETIN 20 OF 20]

[To] All

[Date] Tue 12 Apr 94 15:08

[Subject] CBM

CBM Rumours-----There have been a number of rumours floating around about Commodore over the past couple weeks. It's kind of a shame that such a wonderful information source (the Internet) can breed such nonsense.

Commodore is not Chapter 11. We did not just release the Amiga 5000. Our stock is not currently halted. Last I heard it was over \$1.00.

It is business as usual for Commodore Canada. Right here, right now we've got a machine which is technically superior to any other computer in it's price range. We have stock on A1200s and A4000s and CD³²s, and they are selling relatively well.

I guess some people feel threatened by our technology, and that should inspire a little confidence in all Amiga owners. Our platform is formidable.

So, be objective with what you read. Don't believe anything unless it's an official statement, and if it looks official, send it to me for verification.

Sincerely, Steve Vetzal
Amiga Product Manager

---Steve Vetzal is the Sysop of ComNet. Its C= Canada run BBS and it just shows you that C= USA is in trouble but its business as usual here in Canada.

Injunction against C= and 68060 prices!

I just spent the afternoon on the phone culling through my sources for news about what is going on with Commodore, and have some very interesting news to report. First off--the rumor of an injunction against Commodore preventing them from selling any more machines in the US after April 4th posted here a month ago is in fact true. But it was not an angry mob of creditors as the rumor reported, rather it was the result of a suit filed by a company called Cad Track in 1991 (?). Cad Track holds the patent on using XOR to display any type of cursor on a computer screen. They no longer make any hardware of their own, rather they exist solely to pressure every computer company in existence into paying them money. IBM and most other manufacturers payed them off rather than fight their patent, but for whatever reason, Commodore didn't. Sources you



ask? Well that is where the good news comes in. Alex Amor of CEI in Miami just this week sent a letter to Commodore dealers promising them ample stock on hand, all brought in via Canada thus avoiding the injunction because it is CEI, and not C = selling in the US. Also he promises new products from C = in the next few months (I am assuming the 4000T and 4000LC), and he announces the CEI 1962Monitor. Made specially for CEI, it can do all Amiga modes, and is officially endorsed by Commodore. He also offers special CEI bundles, such as the 4000 with a turbo 040 board installed.... Overall the tone was very up and optimistic and hinted that Commodore may be announcing a "financial partner" in the next week or two. Note that this letter was read to me over the phone, and I had to take hasty notes, so some of my details may be off. Also, the name of the company holding the injunction and why was not in the CEI letter. My own research and sources turned that up.

Now for my other hot news. Motorola has released prices on the 68060 in quantities of 10,000, and get this—THE 68060 IS CHEAPER THAN THE 68040! Here is the price breakdown: 68060 = \$263.00, 68LC060 = \$169.00 (No FPU), 68EC060 = \$150.00 (No MMU). Wow!!!! I am impressed!

Chris Dunphy (CS/EE/S&M/etc...) * E-Mail: cmd1@ecl.wustl.edu
 "Furp!" * 136 Avant Garde Circle *
 cmdunp@cajun.monsanto.com * / * Kenner, LA 70065 * * O * Phone
 (504)/464-1914 * Currently CoOping with Monsanto *

NEW STUFF

Video Toaster Flyer—The Tapeless Editor

For a list price of \$3995, the Video Toaster Flyer provides the same D2 quality image you would expect from a \$50,000 digital video deck. The Flyer integrates seamlessly with the Video Toaster. NewTek's new video compression standard (VTASC) provides quality without the unwanted artifacts of JPEG, MPEG, Wavelet, and other compression types.

The flyer will even handle audio tracks (as a sound mixer able to handle multiple tracks of CD quality digital audio).

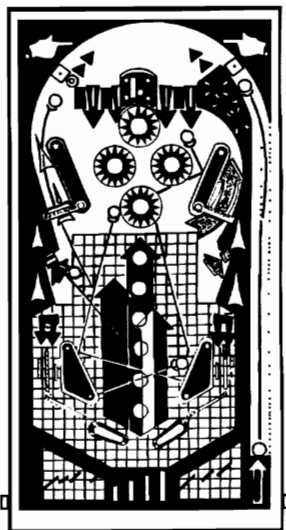
3 SCSI interfaces can handle up to 18 SCSI drives.

New CD³² PAL

Donk, Beavers, Premiere, Disposable Hero.

Newest Amiga Releases

Mr. Nutz, Frontier CD³², Chaos Engine CD³² Final Writer 2, Beneath a Steel Sky, Total Carnage (CD³² and AGA), Darkmere, Turrican 3, Brian the Lion, Perihelion, Chess Champ 2175, Seek and Destroy.





The Creative Impulse

Under Construction

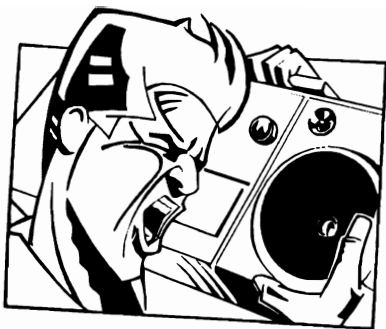


OVAUG Newsletter—April, 1994

AMIGA DOS *Synergy*

UNDER CONSTRUCTION





Bit Twiddling For Hi-Fi

—or— What We Hackers Are Up To in Hamilton County

by Jeff Johnson

A little known fact of the Amiga's sound system is the presence of lowpass (or treble cut) audio filters. In a previous article on digital sound, I discussed the fact that the sampling rate determines the treble frequency response and the number of bits determines the signal to noise ratio. The Amiga can play sampled sound files, IFF 8SVX, at high fidelity sample rates, but the filters attenuate everything above 4 KHz or so. This is AM radio at it's worst.

Another little known fact is that every Amiga excepting the A1000 can turn the filters off, allowing the full sampling frequency range to be heard. The reason for the filters is to quiet anti-alias distortion from an improperly sampled file. This is similar to turning down the treble on a scratchy LP (remember those??).

The audio filters are completely independent of the audio device. They are controlled by bit 1 of the 'pra' register of 'cia' chip 'a.' Say what! Oh, yeah, that. I can't find it on the Cheero's box anywhere.

Well, the 'cia' chips are the Complex Interface Adapter chips of which there are two, chip 'a,' and chip 'b.' These chips drive the parallel port, are the system timers, control the floppy drive motors, among other functions. To mess with the CIA's can get you into the blue merde.

However, on 'cia' chip 'a' is a register known as "Peripheral RegisterA," or 'pra.' Bit #1, (not bit 0), the second from the right or HEX#2, controls two things. These are the audio filters, and on most Amigas (A4000 excluded), the power LED. Yes the dreaded flashing of the GURU is implemented right here Amigoids!

If the magic bit is reset (0), then the LED and the filters are on (see Figure 1). Conversely, if the magic bit is set (1), the LED and filters are off enabling higher fidelity sound (see Figure 2).

With the inestimable help and advice from club member Mark Peters, I created a C Program which does the trick. The DSS8PLUS software has a button for this function, but I haven't seen a separate program just for this. They no doubt exist, but I wanted to roll my own.

Here is the source code, subsequently compiled and linked with SAS/C 6.0.

```
1 /* filename "FILTER_ON.c" */
2 /* precedent working file is LED_Bg.c */
3
4 #include <hardware/custom.h>
5 #include <hardware/cia.h>
6
7 #define MASK 0xFD /* ( binary 11111101 ) */
8 /* To twiddle bit #1 of ciaa chip, pra register. */
9 /* This bit is hardwired to the audio filters and power LED. */
10 /* When reset (0) power LED is ON and so are the audio filters */
11 /* When set (1) the LED is off and the filters are off, */
12 /* resulting in better bandwidth. An audio sample with anti-alias */
13 /* distortion will sound hashy, a clean sample is necessary */
14
15 void main(void)
16 {
17
18 extern struct Custom custom;
19 extern struct CIA ciaa, ciab;
20
21 ciaa.ciapra = ciaa.ciapra & MASK; /* resets bit 1 to 0, turns on filters +LED */
22
23 /* see cia.h file for struct CIA docs */
24 /* see p.528 of Waite "C Primer Plus" on bit fiddling */
25
26
27 }
```

```
1 /* filename "FILTER_OFF.c" */
2 /* precedent working file is LED_Bf.c */
3
4 #include <hardware/custom.h>
5 #include <hardware/cia.h>
6
7 #define MASK 0x2 /* ( binary 00000010 ) */
8 /* To twiddle bit #1 of ciaa chip, pra register. */
9 /* This bit is hardwired to the audio filters and power LED. */
10 /* When reset (0) power LED is ON and so are the audio filters */
11 /* When set (1) the LED is off and the filters are off, */
12 /* resulting in better bandwidth. An audio sample with anti-alias */
13 /* distortion will sound hashy, a clean sample is necessary */
14
15 void main(void)
16 {
17
18 extern struct Custom custom;
19 extern struct CIA ciaa, ciab;
20
21 ciaa.ciapra = ciaa.ciapra | MASK; /* set bit 1 high, turns off filters +LED */
22
23 /* see cia.h file for struct CIA docs */
24 /* see p.528 of Waite "C Primer Plus" on bit fiddling */
25
26
27 }
```

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